



Republic of Zimbabwe

Final Country Report of the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme

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MECHANISM**
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Abbreviations

ADB	Africa Development Bank
AGRITEX	Agricultural Technical and Extension Services
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
FAO	Food Agriculture Organization
FC	Forestry Commission
GEF	Global Environment Facility
JEC-EU	Joint Research Centre of the European Union
MEWC	Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate
MAMID	Ministry of Agriculture Mechanization and Irrigation Development
MEPD	Ministry of Energy and Power Development
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
NAP	National Action Programme
NBSP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NFP	National Focal Point
PWLMA	Parks and Wildlife Management Authority
RDC	Rural District Council
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOC	Soil Organic Carbon
SWOT	Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WB	World Bank
ZimAsset	Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation
ZINWA	Zimbabwe National Water Authority

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1.0 Summary

This report summaries key outputs and outcomes of national efforts conducted in Zimbabwe in 2016 and 2017 towards putting in practice the land degradation neutrality (LDN) concept of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Zimbabwe made the commitment to make its contribution to the attainment of LDN by 2030 by participating in the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP). As part of the process, the country identified, mobilised and engaged key stakeholders for the programme. The stakeholders mobilized to participate in the programme include senior government officials, legislators, farmers and land users, private sector, civil society organizations, research institutions, academia and international development partners.

The country developed an LDN leverage plan. The leverage plan outlines a number of activities to be undertaken as part of LDN programme implementation and identifies lead institutions for each activity. It identifies leverage opportunities and required interventions to achieve LDN. It also identifies national development plans, programmes and priorities in which LDN is to be mainstreamed.

LDN baselines were established. The baselines were established using the globally and nationally adopted indicators namely, land cover, land productivity, soil organic carbon, soil loss, veldt fires, illegal mining and invasive alien species. Zimbabwe's baselines were computed from national data sources except for baselines for soil organic carbon which were computed from global data sources.

Documentation of key land degradation trends and drivers was done as part of the LDN target setting process. Zimbabwe's economy is agro-based and as a result most of the country's land degradation problems are related to agricultural production. Mining and gold panning activities in mineral rich districts result in serious land degradation. In addition land degradation is a result of excessive concentration of human and livestock populations in ecologically marginal, dry and fragile soils mainly in communal areas. The major drivers of land degradation were identified and documented.

Setting of the country's LDN national voluntary targets was achieved. Zimbabwe's targets were set at national and sub-national scales. The sub-national targets focused on the seven LDN hotspots districts of Mhondoro, Shamva, Chivi, Zvishavane, Hwange, Chipinge and Umzingwane. Besides the above, specific LDN targets were also formulated.

LDN has been integrated in national and sector legal and policy frameworks, national development programmes and in the national planning systems at national, provincial and district levels. Institutional arrangements for implementing LDN are now in place. Implementation of the programme is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate (MEWC). Environmental Management Agency (EMA) is the implementing institution for the LDN target setting process.

Synergies have been drawn among the LDN and action plans for climate change, UNCCD and biodiversity. The National Focal Points of the three conventions are housed in the same ministry and are now sharing their action plans with the objective of having joint programming and implementation of their action plans.

A proposed budget and financing plan for funding LDN activities has been developed. Sources of funding are from domestic and external sources. Domestic sources of funding include regular fiscal budget, land pollution fines, land and mining taxes. External sources include grants, foreign direct investments and carbon trade. Identification of potential LDN investment opportunities for both public and private sectors has been done as sources of funding LDN activities.

LDN Targets

The objective of the national voluntary LDN targets is to facilitate the combining of local and national activities related to the prevention of land degradation in Zimbabwe into a united set of targets with common baselines. The targets detailed below were set using 2008 as the land degradation baseline year.

Box 1: LDN Targets of ZIMBABWE

LDN at the national scale

- Improve land cover of forest, wetlands, shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas by 70% by 2030 compared to 2008.
- LDN achieved by 2030 compared to 2008 and an additional 10% (3 905 700 hectares) of the country's total land area has been improved (net gain).

LDN at Sub-National scale

- LDN is achieved in the land degradation hotspots in Mhondoro, Chivi, Shamva, Hwange, Umzingwane, Chipinge and Zvishavane districts by 2030 as compared to 2008 (no net loss)
- LDN is achieved in the land degradation hotspot in Mhondoro, Chivi, Shamva, Hwange, Umzingwane, Chipinge and Zvishavane districts by 2030 as compared to 2008 and additional 15% of degraded hotspots districts has improved (net gain)

Specific targets to avoid, minimize and reverse land degradation

The specific LDN targets detailed below will be achieved by year 2030.

1. Reforestation with local and exotic species on 6 455 250 hectares of forest converted to shrubs and on 215 050 hectares of forest converted to cropland
2. Avoid further decline of forest through economic incentives (rehabilitation) of 2 820 hectares of land showing early signs of decline and having a declining productivity
3. Improve sustainable land management practices to avoid soil and gully erosion,

- encourage and enforce appropriate stoking rates on 175 250 hectares of shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas showing early signs of decline
4. Use conservation farming and agro-forestry practices to improve cropland productivity on 361 250 hectares of cropland showing stable but stressed productivity and early signs of decline
 5. Embark on land/catchment reclamation/restoration on 5 580 hectares of grazing and cropland affected by gully erosion
 6. Enforce laws and regulations, embark on awareness programmes targeting illegal miners and rehabilitate 3 798.60 hectares affected by illegal mining
 7. Reduce the 8 857.92 hectares of land affected by alien species through chemical and mechanical control methods
 8. Maintain and improve land productivity on 137 545 hectares of forests that are currently stable but stressed
 9. Provide alternatives such as rural electrification, renewable energy sources, expand energy for tobacco programme, provide sustainable fencing materials for fencing arable lands and for brick burning , enforce regulations on tree cutting for fuel wood sale and reduce deforestation to protect 297 000 hectares of forest land
 10. Enforce construction of conservation works, encourage conservation agriculture and build capacity for farmers to improve 1 083 825 hectares of degraded arable lands
 11. Improve sustainable land management systems in order to maintain the current soil organic carbon level beyond 2045, forest at 42.3 tons/ha, shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas at 38.6 tons/ha, cropland at 38.9 tons/ha and wetlands at 52,2 tons/ha
 12. Improve wetland management and restoration of 270 080 hectares of the country's severely degraded wetlands

2.0 Leveraging Land Degradation Neutrality

2.1 Zimbabwe's Interest to Commit to LDN and Set LDN Targets

Land Degradation affects large parts of Zimbabwe mainly in communal areas where annual soil loss averages 3.3 tons per hectare. In commercial areas soil loss averages 0.6 tons per hectare per year (Feresu 2010). The most obvious impact of land degradation is the degradation of thousands of hectares of the country's rangelands. Zimbabwe's interest in combating land degradation was demonstrated when the country signed and ratified the UNCCD. Zimbabwe signed the convention in October 1994 and ratified it in September 1997. The country later participated in the Land Degradation Neutrality target setting process during the period December 2016 to September 2017.

Zimbabwe expressed its interest to participate in the land degradation neutrality target setting process by submitting a formal request to the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD on 22 October 2015.

2.2 Link Among Land Degradation Neutrality, Sustainable Development Goals and Other Country Commitments

Zimbabwe has committed itself to implement LDN as one of its strategies to combat land degradation. The country has also committed itself to implement all the sustainable development goals (SDGs) with emphasis on SDGs 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 13 and 17. The prioritisation exercise was guided by the country's vision, the need to focus on enabling goals, resource availability and the country's unfinished business from the MDGs. A Parliamentary Thematic Committee on SDGs has been established. The interest of LDN is represented on the Thematic Committee by the chairman of the parliamentary portfolio committee on environment. In view of the comprehensive nature of LDN and SDGs, strong partnerships play a vital role in the implementation of the LDN and SDGs. In addition integration and alignment are essential for their effective implementation. Both LDN and SDGs have already been mainstreamed and integrated in the national development plan (ZIMASSET) and this has created opportunities for their joint implementation.

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate through the Environmental Management Agency is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the LDN programme. The Ministry of Micro Economic Planning and Investment Promotion coordinates the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The two ministries have realised that there are direct linkages between LDN and SDGs in areas of poverty reduction, food security, environmental protection and sustainable use of land resources. They are also in agreement that implementing activities aimed meeting the objectives of SDG 15 and target 15.3 results in achieving the objectives of LDN and those of SDGs 1,2,6,7 and 13 and there is also recognition that joint programming and implementation will benefit both programmes.

LDN has been linked to SGD 1 as a means of ensuring that it is mainstreamed in the country's poverty alleviation strategies. This has resulted in LDN being integrated in the

Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy. LDN issues have been included in the implementation of SDG 2. Zimbabwe has a strong policy environment for food security and improved nutrition and has prioritised ending hunger within its overall development agenda. The country has developed a Zero Hunger strategy in which issues relating to LDN have been incorporated. Joint implementation of activities aimed at meeting the objectives of LDN and SDG 2 is contributing to improved agricultural production by protecting the land resource base. Land degradation neutrality has been linked to sustainable development goal 13 (climate action). The areas that have been identified for joint action include mitigating the impact of climate change and reducing land degradation through reforestation and sustainable management of the country's forest resources.

Land degradation neutrality has been integrated into activities of sustainable development goal 7 (affordable and clean energy). The main sources of energy used in Zimbabwe comprise wood fuel, coal electricity and petroleum fuels. Wood fuel provides 61% of total energy supply followed by liquid fuels 18%, electricity 13% and coal 8%. Ninety six percent (96%) of rural households depend on wood fuel to meet their energy needs aggravating the deforestation and land degradation (Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency 2012). Agreed areas of joint interventions focus on provision of alternative renewable energy to wood fuel among rural communities in order to curb deforestation and land degradation. Other interventions focus on expanding the rural electrification programme as well as promoting energy efficiency.

Joint reporting on LDN and SDGs issues is done through a committee on conventions and SDGs established by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate. The committee has the responsibility of evaluating and reporting on progress being made in implementing conventions in which the country is part to and SDGs particularly SDGs 13 and 15 which are coordinated by the ministry. LDN issues are reported as part of the NAP and also in the spirit of joint synergistic programming and implementation with the other Rio conventions. This report is submitted to the ministry that coordinates SDGs implementation at country level where it is integrated into the national progress report.

The existing action plans and programmes that are relevant to the LDN include:

- Second National Action Programme (2015 to 2030)
- National Development Plan, Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Social and Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET)
- National Climate Change Response Strategy and Action Plan
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Vision 2020
- Poverty Alleviation Action Plan

Three of the above action plans relate to Zimbabwe's commitments under the Rio conventions. Mainstreaming LDN in the above action plans and programmes helps to speed up achievement of the LDN objectives.

2.3 Leverage Opportunities Identified

Zimbabwe developed a leverage plan which helped to identify existing leverage opportunities, required interventions and allocate responsibility to appropriate institutions for action. The plan highlighted opportunities that can be tapped into to promote and enhance the attainment of land degradation neutrality in Zimbabwe. It shows how synergies can be developed with the UNCCD and other Rio Conventions while complementing already existing national policies, strategies, plans and programmes. The plan emphasises the engagement of key stakeholders and relevant sectors to fulfil the requirements of the Convention and to meet the objectives of LDN

The introduction of the LDN was discussed at meetings held among the UNCCD National Focal Point, EMA and the National Taskforce on desertification which doubles as the Land Degradation Neutrality National Working Group and it was noted that one of the objectives of the LDN was to facilitate the speed implementation of the UNCCD. It was further noted that the LDN and NAP have similar objectives but have different time frames, it was agreed that the time frames for both be 2030 in line with the time frame of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There was also general agreement on the need to strengthen synergies among the National Climate Change Response Strategy, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, NAP and LDN and that Land Degradation Neutrality can influence joint programming in the implementation of these national action plans.

The Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Social and Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) has components which seek to promote sustainable land utilization, improved agricultural production and environmental protection. The attainment of these ZIMASSET objectives contributes to the attainment of the LDN objectives. Zimbabwe's vision 2020 addresses issues of improved agricultural production and protection of the environment and sustainable management of the land resources. Its successful implementation contributes towards LDN achievement. The objectives of the National Climate Change Response Strategy, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and the National Action Programme converge on the realisation that their successful implementation requires well managed land resources. Their successful implementation will benefit from drawing synergies among the three national action plans and the land degradation neutrality.

Land degradation and drought issues are closely linked to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as well as climate change. Synergic planning is required in the implementation of these plans. A coordinated approach needs to be adopted to avoid duplication of efforts and to ensure the country's financial resources are efficiently utilized.

Land degradation and drought are key drivers of forests and biodiversity loss while climate change leads to increased rainfall variability and in the case of Zimbabwe this often results in severe droughts. Unsustainable land management practices have been identified as one of the major threats to biodiversity and need to be eliminated so that land maintains its productivity and ecosystem breakdown and species loss is avoided in

the long term. Further synergies have been explored in areas of advocacy, public awareness and education, as well as in science, research and technology and capacity development, and in policy formulation and implementation. This approach focuses on sustainable utilisation of land and forest resources as well as biodiversity conservation and this benefits the LDN.

The national focal points of UNCCD, climate change and biodiversity are housed in the same ministry (Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate) and this makes the integration of the LDN in the national action plans of the three conventions easier. The same ministry is responsible for the LDN target setting process and this has created a positive environment for coordination in the implementation of activities aimed at achieving the objectives of climate change, biodiversity, UNCCD and LDN. The Land Degradation Neutrality can take advantage of the process of drawing synergies among the Rio conventions to ensure that LDN issues are integrated in the implementation of their action plans. The existing development plans and investment frameworks such as the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Social and Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) provide opportunities for mainstreaming LDN in the country's development priorities.

The existing laws and regulations that benefit LDN include, Environmental management Act, Forest Act, Communal Lands Forest Produce Act, Agricultural Research Act, Water Act, Agricultural Land Resettlement Act, Parks and Wildlife Management Act and Mines and Minerals Act

LDN has the opportunity to influence the following policies under formulation to ensure that LDN issues are included in the final policy frameworks: National Forest Policy, National Climate Policy, National Renewable Energy Policy and Strengthening of the National Land Policy.

The existence of none-governmental stakeholders working in the environment, forest, energy, agriculture and land use planning sectors is one of the leverage opportunities identified. It was felt that these stakeholders will play pivotal roles in raising awareness on land degradation neutrality issues, in LDN projects identification as well as in mobilizing financial resources for funding land degradation neutrality activities

Three activities were prioritised for action and these include:

- Promoting the synergistic programming and implementation of the Rio and other Conventions by engaging the working group on conventions to harmonize actions in the National Action Programme , National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and National Climate Change Response Strategy and mainstreaming land degradation neutrality activities in their implementation
- Conduct education and awareness raising for LDN for policy makers, legislators, land users and general public through meetings, workshops, field days and the media
- Link land degradation neutrality to the country's developmental, employment creation and poverty reduction strategies and identify areas and projects for joint action.

2.4 Issues Discussed and Agreed Upon by the National Working Group

The need to establish a national working group for the LDN was discussed at length and members resolved that the current National Taskforce on Desertification be adopted as the LDN national working group. The national working group discussed the use of the globally adopted indicators namely land cover, land productivity and soil organic carbon. These were adopted but four additional indicators were adopted namely soil loss, veldt fires, illegal mining and evasive alien species.

The use of data from global sources for establishing LDN baselines and setting of LDN targets was discussed at national working group meetings and workshops. After comparing the data from global sources and that from local sources, the following was agreed upon. That data from local sources be used to set baselines for land cover, land productivity, soil loss, veldt fires, illegal mining and evasive alien species while baselines and targets for soil organic carbon were to be established using data from global sources since the country does not have reliable data on soil organic carbon. The baselines and targets documents and all documents produced as part of the LDN target setting process were discussed by the national working group and were validated at the first and second validation workshops held on 4 May 2017 and 31 August 2017 respectively.

The national working group noted that Zimbabwe has good policy and legal frameworks as well as institutional arrangements that can support the objectives of the land degradation neutrality. What needs to be improved is enforcement of the laws and regulations to ensure land is protected from potential offenders. The national working group emphasized the need to have good coordination among relevant ministries implementing the various policies and legal frameworks relevant to LDN. Strong coordination among participating institutions eliminates duplication and contradictions. Concern was expressed on lack of a national land use plan to guide appropriate land use systems for each of Zimbabwe's five agro-ecological regions. The national working group recommended that the production and implementation of land use plans be taken as part of the country's agrarian and land reform process. The national working group further recommended that the current land tenure system be reviewed with the objective of giving title deeds to land users as it was felt that lack of title deeds discourages investment on the land.

3.0 Assessing LDN

3.1 LDN Trends and Drivers

Zimbabwe has witnessed a series of drastic changes in land use, technology, demographic, farming capabilities, economic demands on the resource base, allocation of land and changes in political inclination. All these have had an impact on the quality and quantity of the country's land resource base resulting in environmental and land degradation problems. Since Zimbabwe's economy is agro-based, a greater proportion of the country's land degradation problems are related to agricultural practices. Mining

and gold panning activities in mineral rich districts tend to contribute to serious problems of land degradation. In addition, land degradation is a result of excessive concentration of human and livestock populations in ecologically marginal, dry and fragile soils mainly in communal areas.

According to the draft second National Action Programme (NAP) formulated in October 2014, the main drivers of land degradation in Zimbabwe include:

- forest clearing for agricultural expansion, road construction and settlements,
- over dependence of rural communities on fuel wood to meet their energy requirements.
- Overutilization of trees for curing tobacco, construction and fencing purposes, brick burning and wood carvings.
- population pressure particularly in communal areas where 67% of the population resides (2012 population census),
- droughts, floods and climate change,
- expansion of small and large mines,
- high level of poverty among rural communities,
- poor agricultural practices, inappropriate land management practices and limited investment in land,
- inappropriate land use resulting from non-adherence to land classification and land use plans,
- veldt fires which deprive the land of forest and grass cover resulting in soil and gully erosion
- electricity shortage which force people to turn to biomass fuel to meet their energy requirements in both urban and rural areas.

These drivers of land degradation were confirmed during the land degradation target setting process.

In addition to soil loss, veldt fires, illegal mining and evasive alien species are additional indicators adopted by Zimbabwe. According to studies conducted by the Environmental Management Agency (2011 -2017), an estimated one million hectares of land are affected by fire annually. Zimbabwe has more than 1000 mines producing about 35 different minerals. Mining has large impact on land as it often causes substantial transformation of land cover and topography. Unlike legal mines, illegal mines have no environmental management plans. An estimated 9 496.49 hectares is affected by illegal mining. Invasion of land by alien evasive species has made some lands less productive. The total land area invaded by alien evasive species is estimated at 8 857.92 hectares.

On land cover, studies conducted by the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and Forest Commission (FC) show that there is a general decline in Zimbabwean woodlands mainly due to clearing for agriculture, and partly due to harvesting fuel wood and construction poles, infrastructure development and overstocking of domestic animals (Gondo and Mkwanda 2001). Rapid population growth puts a strain on forest resources as well. Natural regeneration in the form of secondary forests in degraded areas, post fire areas or areas previously logged is critical for the sustainable management of the

natural forests in Zimbabwe. Studies conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2008 indicate that Zimbabwe's forest resources are being depleted at the rate of 1.8% which translates to a loss of 330 000 hectares of forests per year. Data from Forest Commission covering the period 1992 -2008 shows that the country lost 4 521 472.98 hectares of forest during this period. The percentage of forest area declined from 53.2% of the country's total land area in 1992 to 41.6% in 2008 representing a percentage decline of 11.6% over the 16 year period.

On land productivity, data generated by Environmental Management Agency (EMA) covering the period 2000 to 2010 shows that, an insignificant area of the country's total land area has declining land productivity, 5% shows early signs of decline, 58% is stable but stressed, 35% is stable and not stressed, while 2% of the country's total land area has increasing land productivity.

Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) gives an indication of the health of the ecosystem, the more there is the healthier the ecosystem. Data from International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC) indicate that Zimbabwe's Soil Organic Carbon content ranges from 52.2 tons/ha in wetlands to 33.7 tons/ha in bare land. Increasing these values will require tremendous efforts including vegetation cover while providing conducive conditions for soil fauna to flourish. Increasing the SOC content is therefore a long term effort that also requires actual changes in local climate including increasing rainfall and this can only be achieved through long term strategies.

3.2 LDN Legal and Institutional Environment

The Government of Zimbabwe has put in place a number of policy, legal and institutional initiatives in order to address the country's development and land resources management problems.

The National Conservation Strategy is one such policy initiative by post-independent Zimbabwe. It is a comprehensive and well prepared strategy and as such it is a convenient starting point for examining strategic requirement not only for the land degradation neutrality initiatives but also for all environmental policy initiatives. This was the first attempt by Zimbabwe to have a holistic approach to issues related to development and land resources protection and management. It draws linkages among land, water, energy, biodiversity, poverty and population issues in designing programmes for land degradation control.

The institutions that are in place that are interested in LDN include: the Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Forest Commission (FC), Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (Agritex), Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Department of Energy, Department of Water resources and Department of Research and Specialist Services.

On the legal front, Zimbabwe has enacted a number of legal frameworks that benefit LDN. The following legal frameworks are relevant to achieving LDN:

- Environmental Management Act of 2002 is the major legal framework that was enacted to improve the management of land, forest, energy and water resources. The Act makes provision for regulations to promote the sustainable use of land resources through environmental impact assessment, environmental audits and penalties for those who misuse the land and pollute the environment.
- The Forest Act of 1948 (amended 1982) provides regulations for utilisation of land and forest resources on private and state lands,
- The Communal Lands Forest Produce Act (CLFPA) of 1987 vests the commercial utilization of forest products on communal areas in the hands of the Rural District Councils, and allows only subsistence utilization of forest products by local people and communities.

The other legal frameworks that are relevant to land degradation control and LDN issues include:

- National Water Act of 1998, has provisions to prevent stream bank cultivation
- National Parks and Wildlife Management Act of 1975, amended in 1982
- Communal Land Act of 1982, amended 1985, allocates control of land under the President through the Rural District Councils.
- Rural District Councils Act of 1988, provides for the Rural District Councils to enact by-laws to regulate land resources use and issue licenses for commercial exploitation of land and forest products.
- Agricultural Land Settlement Act
- Mines and Minerals Act of 1961
- Agriculture Research Act
- Rural Electrification Fund Act (REF)
- Traditional Leaders' Act

The successful implementation of Zimbabwe's LDN voluntary targets requires a conducive legal-institutional and policy environment for their attainment. They require the enforcement of the provisions of the legal frameworks outlined above.

One of the weaknesses of the country's legal framework is that there is no standalone legislation that regulates land degradation issues in Zimbabwe. Instead some of the land degradation control issues are included in sector laws outlined above which results in conflict of interest and contradictions in some cases.

3.3 Land Degradation Neutrality Baselines

Zimbabwe's LDN baselines were set using the internationally adopted indicators namely land cover, land productivity and carbon stocks above and below the ground (soil organic carbon). In addition four national indicators were adopted at the recommendation of the LDN National Working Group. These include soil loss (soil and gully erosion), veldt fires, illegal mining and invasive alien species. Both data from global and local sources was used in setting the LDN baselines

The default data was discussed at a meeting attended by the National focal Point for the UNCCD, EMA officials involved in the implementation of the LDN target setting process, personnel from the GIS section and at national working group data analysis meetings and workshops. The discussions resulted in the following observations and recommendations;

1. The default data is too coarse due to the resolution used and the estimates given seem to be on the lower side.
2. The country does not have reliable data on soil organic carbon.
3. The data from local sources be used for setting baselines for land cover and land productivity and the data from global sources are used for setting baseline for soil organic carbon.

On land productivity, data from the Environmental Management Agency for the period 2000 to 2010 shows that, 0% of the country's total land area has declining land productivity, 5% shows early signs of decline, 58% is stable but stressed, 35% is stable and not stressed, while 2% of the country total land area has increasing land productivity

Soil organic carbon during the year 2000 was highest in wetlands with 52.2 tons/ha, followed by forests with 42.3 tons/ha with artificial areas coming third with 41.8 tons/ha. Soil organic carbon for croplands was estimated at 38.9 tons/ha while that for shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas was estimated at 38.6 tons/ha. Bare land had the lowest soil organic carbon of 33.7 tons per hectare.

Additional indicators added at the recommendation of the national working group include; soil loss (soil and gully erosion), veldt fires, illegal mining and invasive alien species. The Environmental Management Agency (EMA) is the institution in charge of data used to set baselines for the additional indicators. The data was generated by conducting national inventories which were conducted during the period 2011 -2017. Research studies by the Institute of Agricultural Engineering also contributed data that was used in determining the rates of soil loss.

Erosion rates vary depending on soil type, slope, plant cover and land use. Zimbabwe Environment Outlook estimates soil loss in rangelands ranges from 3 to 75 tons per hectare per year, with generally high rates in communal lands. Soil loss from arable lands ranges from 15 to 50 tons per hectare per year. National soil loss average is estimated at 3.3 tons per hectare per year in communal lands and 0,6 tons per hectare per year in commercial farms. Studies by the Institute of Agricultural Engineering (IAE) estimate soil loss at 8 metric tons per hectare per year representing an increase in previous national average estimates. The various soils loss studies are however not strictly comparable due to differences in time, methods and assessment scales, but they all point to a general increase in soil and gully erosion in the country. The current soil loss estimates by IAE has been adopted as the official rate for planning purposes and for the LDN, a baseline of soil loss of 8 metric tons per hectare per year has been adopted.

As noted above veldt fires, illegal mining and invasive alien species are additional indicators adopted. Veldt fires are a common phenomenon in Zimbabwe. An estimated 1000 000 hectares of land are affected by veldt fires annually. Veldt fires destroy vegetation leaving the land bare and susceptible to soil erosion. Zimbabwe has more than 1000 mines producing about 35 minerals. Mining has large impact on land as it often causes substantial transformation of land cover and topography. Unlike legal mines, illegal mines have no environmental management plans. An estimated 9 496.49 hectares is affected by illegal mines. Invasion of land by alien species is a common environmental problem in Zimbabwe. The total area invaded by alien species is estimated at 8 857.92 hectares

The year 2008 is the base year for land cover while year 2010 is the base year for land productivity dynamics and soil organic carbon. The year 2017 is the base year for soil loss, veldt fire, illegal mining and evasive alien species. The baselines for land cover were set using data from Forest Commission (1992 -2008) are as detailed below:

- Area under forest (woodlands) 16 268 761.02 ha
- Shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas (Bush land, wooded grasslands) 70 495 614.53 ha
- Area under croplands (cultivation) 14 412 913.35 ha
- Areas under wetlands 1 280 000 ha
- Artificial areas (settlements) 189 953.62 ha
- Bare land (Rock outcrop) 134 890.9 ha
- Water body 389 881.34 ha

Land productivity baselines by land use type are detailed in the table below.

Table 1: Land Productivity Baselines by Land Use Type

Land cover/use type	Declining	Early signs of decline	Stable but stressed	Stable not stressed	Increasing
Forest	1 800 ha	12 300 ha	2 750 900 ha	6 430 600 ha	502 100 ha
Shrubs, grasslands	2 600 ha	1 752 500 ha	12 910 500 ha	5 260 500 ha	86 200 ha
Croplands	100 ha	196 600 ha	7028400 ha	1 953 900 ha	58 600 ha
Wetlands	0	0	100 ha	1 000 ha	0
Artificial areas	0	11 100 ha	73 600 ha	32 300 ha	700 ha
Bare land	0	100 ha	100 ha	0	0
Water body	23 800 ha	25 300 ha	36 300 ha	11 300 ha	200 ha

The LDN target setting process encourages the identification of land degradation hotspots which may be possible sites for the identification and implementation of

transformative projects. In line with this, efforts were made to identify land degradation hotspots throughout Zimbabwe. Hotspots were selected using land cover and land productivity maps as well as maps showing areas affected by gully erosion, fire, invasive alien species and illegal mining. In addition a map showing the five agro-ecological zones was used to ensure that selected hotspots sites are in both high and low rainfall areas.

Using the above selection criteria, 7 hotspots sites were selected out of which 5 were short listed for field assessment. The assessed hotspots are in Mhondoro, Shamva, Chivi, Zvishavane and Umzingwane districts.

4.0 Setting LDN Targets

Zimbabwe has developed its draft second National Action Programme which defines strategies the country is planning to take to avoid, minimize and reverse land degradation and also outlines strategies for rehabilitating the country's degraded lands. Zimbabwe participated in the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Process, a programme with similar objectives with the NAP. In addition the LDN target setting process set targets that facilitate the speed implementation of the NAP and the UNCCD. Overall, LDN in Zimbabwe is aimed at achieving a balance between ongoing land degradation and future efforts to improve degraded lands.

Zimbabwe's LDN targets have been set at the national and sub-national levels. Specific targets that are aimed at avoiding, minimizing and reversing land degradation have also been formulated. The targets help the country in three ways: First, the targets facilitate the speed implementation of the LDN, NAP and the UNCCD. Second, the baselines and the targets help in the monitoring and reporting of progress in the implementation of NAP and LDN activities. Third, the target document helps Zimbabwe access additional financial resources to support its land degradation control programmes.

The statistics used in setting the targets were drawn from baseline figures outlined in the planning table in the baseline report, a summary of which is given as annex 4 in this report.

4.1 LDN Targets

The national and sub-national targets are outlined in box 1. Detailed below are Zimbabwe's specific voluntary targets and proposed corrective measures:

1. Reforestation with local and exotic species on 6 455 250 ha of forest converted to shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas by 2030.
2. Avoid further decline of forest through economic incentives (rehabilitation) of 2 820 hectares of land showing early signs of decline and having a declining productivity

3. Improve sustainable land management practices to avoid soil and gully erosion, encourage and enforce appropriate stocking rates on 175 250 hectares of shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas showing early signs of decline
4. Use conservation farming and agro-forestry practices to improve cropland productivity on 361 250 hectares of cropland showing stable but stressed productivity and early signs of decline by 2030
5. Embark on land/catchment reclamation/restoration of 5 580 hectares of grazing land and cropland affected by gully erosion by 2030
6. Enforce laws and regulations, embark on awareness programmes targeting illegal miners and rehabilitate 3 798.60 hectares affected by illegal mining by 2030
7. Reduce the 8 857.92 hectares of land affected by alien species through chemical, biological and mechanical control by 2030
8. Maintain and improve land productivity on 137 545 hectares of forests that are currently stable but stressed
9. Provide alternatives such as rural electrification, renewable energy sources, expand energy for tobacco programme, provide sustainable fencing materials for fencing arable lands and community gardens and for brick burning , enforce regulations on tree cutting for fuel wood sale and reduce deforestation to protect 297 000 hectares of forest land by 2030
10. Enforce construction of conservation works, encourage conservation agriculture and build capacity for farmers to improve 1 083 825 hectares of degraded arable lands by 2030
11. Improve sustainable land management systems in order to maintain the current soil organic carbon level beyond 2045, forest at 42.3 tons/ha, shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas at 38.6 tons/ha, cropland at 38.9 tons/ha and wetlands at 52,2 tons/ha
12. Improve wetland management and restoration of 270 080 hectares of the country's severely degraded wetlands by 2030

4.2 Associated Measures to Achieve LDN.

The measures put in place include the following:

- Ensuring that LDN activities are funded from national /ministerial budgets through annual allocations from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Seek additional funding from international development partners
- Develop new innovative funding mechanisms such as tax rebates/incentives for adopting or investing in sustainable land management practices, payment for benefits from land resources, land degradation penalties, funding from private sector, adopt and enforce the polluter pays principle
- Establish a land rehabilitation fund with contributions from the mining sector for rehabilitating degraded mined areas
- Facilitate establishment of mining syndicates and legalise them in order to curb land degradation caused by illegal mining
- Establish a LDN specific position in the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate on a long term basis

- Align LDN and NAP activities to facilitate speed implementation of the UNCCD
- Promote land degradation research and develop capacity for land degradation research
- Develop specific legislation on land degradation and review and strengthen current legislation related to control of land degradation
- Develop and implement transformative programmes and projects to rehabilitate and prevent land degradation at the identified land degradation hotspots
- Support community based conservation activities and sustainable agriculture management initiatives
- Develop an advocacy and awareness raising campaign for LDN at national, provincial, district and community levels
- Ensure LDN is mainstreamed in national and sector policies and development programmes as well as being integrated in the country's planning systems at all levels.

5.0 Achieving LDN

5.1 Leverage Already Achieved

Zimbabwe developed a leverage plan which outlines existing LDN leverage opportunities, required interventions and allocates responsibility to appropriate institutions for action. It highlights opportunities that can be tapped into to promote and enhance the attainment of land degradation neutrality in Zimbabwe. It seeks to build synergies with the UNCCD and other Rio Conventions while complementing already existing national policies, strategies, plans and programmes. The plan emphasises the engagement of key stakeholders and relevant sectors to fulfil the requirements of the Convention and LDN.

The leverage plan outlines a number of activities to be undertaken as part of LDN programme implementation and identifies lead institutions for each activity. The leverage already achieved include:

1. Synergies have been drawn among the three Rio conventions and the LDN and joint programming and implementation strategies have been formulated
2. There is now Improved coordination among institutions responsible for coordinating and implementing the LDN, NAP and SDGs
3. LDN has been mainstreamed into the national development plans such as the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Social and Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET), Vision 2020 and Poverty Alleviation Action Plan. LDN has also been mainstreamed in the country's eight provincial development plans. Policies in which LDN has been integrated include; National Environmental Policy, National Energy Policy Wildlife Land Reform Based Policy and National Policy on Drought Management.
4. Synergies have been developed in the implementation of land degradation neutrality and sustainable development goals especially SDGs 1,2,6, 7, 12 and 13

5. Allocation of responsibilities to relevant institutions for coordination and implementation of LDN activities outlined in the leverage plan has been agreed upon. For example Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate is responsible for coordinating the drawing of synergies among the action plans of the Rio convention and for linking LDN in their implementation. Ministry of Macro - Economic Planning and Investment Promotion is the lead institution for coordinating the implementation of the sustainable development goals and for ensuring mainstreaming of SDGs in relevant programmes and policies. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is the lead institution for allocating adequate resources for funding LDN activities and for ensuring that LDN is mainstreamed in the provincial and district development plans. Environmental Management Agency is the lead institution for resource mobilization for funding LDN activities, for ensuring that LDN is linked into relevant development plans and for education and awareness raising on LDN issues.
6. Identification of local, regional and international financial resources for funding LDN activities has been completed
7. LDN has been integrated in the education and awareness raising programmes of Environmental Management Agency, Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Agricultural Technical and Extension Services and Forest Commission.

5.2 LDN Transformative Projects and Programmes Opportunities Identified

The national voluntary targets defined during the LDN target setting process seek to combat land degradation through the adoption of sustainable land management systems as well as undertaking restoration of already degraded land and river catchments. Transformative projects identification were guided by national targets as well as by the LDN globally and nationally adopted indicators of land cover, land productivity, soil organic carbon, soil loss, illegal mining, invasive alien species and veldt fires. Two approaches were adopted in the identification of transformative projects for implementation, these include mainstreaming LDN in ongoing and planned projects related to LDN and development of new transformative projects with special focus on identified hotspots areas.

Table 2: Ongoing Projects in which LDN can be integrated

Project Name	Resources Provider	Implementing Agency	Partners	Project Focus
Small holder irrigation revitalisation	IFAD	MAID	MEWC, ZINWA, Local Authorities	Food security and poverty reduction
Moimbo eco-region programme	WWF	MEWC	FC , PWLMA, EMA	Sustainable forest management
Hwange Sanyati biological corridor project	WB	MEWC,	EMA, FC, PWLMA, WWF, DDF, MAID	Biodiversity and sustainable land management
Reducing dependence on wood for household energy	WWF	MEPD,	MEWC, EMA , MEPD and FC	Provision of alternatives to fuel wood (reduce deforestation)
Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund	EU and UNDP	MAID	MEWC, EMA, SAFIRE	Capacity building
Water and Sanitation	USAID and UNICEF	Ministry of health	ZINWA, MEWC, CTDO	Water provision and sanitation improvement
Veldt Fire Management	EMA	EMA	FC, PWLMA, RDC, Farmers' Unions	Control of veldt fires and reduce its impact on forest and land resources
Wetland protection and enhanced community livelihoods	EMA and World Vision	EMA	WWF, World Vision, CARE International	Sustainable wetland utilisation and food security improvement

5.3 Planned Transformative Projects

Stakeholders in the LDN hotspots districts recommended that transformative projects to be identified and implemented should focus on land degradation control, sustainable wetland management, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, sustainable forest management, improved water and food security. Most of the proposed transformative projects are located in the identified hotspots districts of Mhondoro, Shamva, Chivi, Zvishavane, Chipinge, and Umzingwane. The identified transformative projects include:

- The Saint Michael landscape restoration project in Mhondoro district. The project components are land/gully reclamation, woodland management, nursery establishment and tree planting and capacity development for farmers on sustainable farming methods. The Environmental Management Agency is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the project.
- Mtshabezi Irrigation and Integrated Catchment Management project in Umzingwane district. The Project is aimed at developing irrigation projects near Mtshabezi dam and along the Mtshabezi water pipeline as a poverty reduction strategy and to improve land management systems in the river's catchment area. The Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX) is the lead institution in the implementation of the project.
- Land restoration on mined areas, reforestation and woodland management in wards 10, 11, 12 and 13 of Shamva district. A similar project will be implemented in wards 3, 5 and 19 in Zvishavane district where both legal and illegal mining have caused serious land degradation. The projects are aimed at rehabilitating areas that have been destroyed by both legal and illegal mining. Tree planting on rehabilitated areas will be done as part of the rehabilitation process and miners will be capacitated and encouraged to adopt sustainable mining methods. The Ministry of Mines and Mines Development and Forest commission are the lead institutions in the implementation of these projects.
- Construction of five multiple purpose water conservation structures on the Runde, Mazowe, Mzingwane, Ngezi and Mwanzezi rivers. The dams will provide water for livestock and domestic use, irrigation and electricity generation among other benefits. Project implementation will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate.
- The Chivi sustainable forest and woodland management, reforestation and landscape restoration project. The project focuses on promoting sustainable forests and land utilization, restoration of degraded land, provision of alternative sources of energy to fuel wood, adoption of efficient technologies that use less firewood and capacitate farmers to adopt sustainable farming methods. Forest Commission and Ministry of Energy and Power Development are the lead institutions in the implementation of the project.
- The Chipinge Wetlands protection, utilization, rehabilitation and enhancement of community livelihoods. The project seeks to promote the sustainable use of wetlands, rehabilitate degraded wetlands and to enhance community livelihoods through harvesting water from the protected wetlands and use it for

crop and vegetables irrigation, livestock and domestic use so as to improve water and food security at household level. The implementation of the project is the responsibility of the Environmental Management Agency.

For each of identified transformative project, lead institutions, cooperating partners and possible funding sources were also identified. Implementation of each of the above projects will be effected as soon as funding is secured.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 Lessons Learnt

The following lessons were learnt from Zimbabwe's LDN target setting process:

- The process showed that Zimbabwe has elaborated good policy, legal and institutional frameworks which create a conducive environment for the successful implementation of the NAP and LDN activities. However, good laws and regulations are only helpful if they are effectively enforced. There is need to create an effective mechanism for the enforcement of the existing policy and legal frameworks. Personnel responsible for administering various legal frameworks related to land degradation control need to be empowered with adequate resources to enable them to enforce the laws. The institutions also need to be adequately staffed.
- Appropriate penalties are required in order to deter potential offenders from abusing land resources. The current penalties for illegal mining are so low that offenders opt to pay the fines and return to their illegal mining activities which are very destructive to the land. Fine schedules need to be reviewed and judicial personnel educated on LDN issues.
- The other challenge is that there is no policy and legal framework that can be used to coordinate the effectiveness of existing laws and regulations to achieve LDN.
- Good communication is important among institutions that desire to promote joint programming and joint implementation of LDN transformative projects and programmes.
- Coordination of institutions responsible for agriculture, environment, forest, energy and land use planning is necessary for LDN achievement. It helps to avoid duplication of effort and contradictions and promotes efficient use of resources.
- LDN is a new concept, education and awareness raising are necessary to raise people's awareness on the importance of LDN issues. There is also need for people to have a common and agreed definition of land degradation neutrality.

6.2 Conclusion

The Zimbabwe LDN target setting process achieved its intended outputs and outcomes. The country identified and engaged key stakeholders for the LDN target setting process which include senior government officials, civil society organisations, farmers land users, legislators, researchers, academia and international development partners. The process developed an LDN Leverage Plan which identified opportunities for achieving LDN, measures to be implemented and lead institutions for each of the proposed LDN activities. The LDN target setting process also managed to define baselines for both the globally and nationally adopted indicators which include land cover, land productivity, soil organic carbon, soil loss, veldt fires, illegal mining and invasive alien species. Assessment and documentation of land degradation trends and drivers was successfully undertaken. Legal-institutional and policy environment for achieving LDN was evaluated and existing legal and policy frameworks and institutions that benefit LDN achievement were identified and documented. A swot analysis of the legal-institutional environment was conducted. The analysis highlighted the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the existing legal frameworks and institutions as they relate to LDN achievement.

The LDN target setting process culminated in the setting of the country's voluntary LDN targets. The targets were set at national and sub-national levels. Specific LDN targets were also established focusing on promotion of good land and forest resources management and the rehabilitation of the country's already degraded land. Associated measures for achieving set targets were highlighted and documented.

A governmental high level note for measures to achieve the national LDN targets was produced. The high level note expresses Zimbabwe's commitment to LDN target setting process and highlights the voluntary national targets the country has set as well as work undertaken as part of implementing the LDN process. The note also outlines policies, strategies and steps Zimbabwe will take to achieve LDN by 2030

The identification and assessment of LDN hotspots was concluded and assessment was done through field visits to the affected areas. The hotspots areas have been identified as potential sites for the implementation of the proposed transformative projects.

The process of identifying transformative projects was undertaken. Two approaches were adopted in the identification of transformative projects to be implemented, these include mainstreaming LDN transformative projects in ongoing and planned projects related to LDN and development of new transformative projects with special focus on identified hotspots sites. In addition an evaluation and documentation of possible funding sources for LDN activities was done. The identified sources include both domestic and external sources. All the documents produced as part of the LDN target setting process were validated by the LDN national working group and by other key stakeholders who participated in the LDN workshops.

Annex 1: Members of the Zimbabwe Land Degradation Neutrality National Working Group

Institution	Representative	Official Position
Environmental Management Agency	Ms Alletta Nyahuye	Director
Environmental Management Agency	Maxwell Maturure	Manager
Environmental Management Agency	Ms Precious Magwaza	Senior Environment Officer
Environment Consultants	Emanuel Chinyamakobvu	Consultant
Environment Consultants	Mzondiwa Shoko	Consultant
Forest Commission	Abedenigo Marufu	General Manager
Mukuvisi Woodlands	Alliance Chimanikire	Manager
Forest Commission	Anderson Muchawona	Officer
Midlands State University	Dr Adelide Munodawafa	Professor
Chinhoyi University of Technology	Abel Chemura	Lecturer
Southern Alliance For Indigenous Resources	Gladman Kudhlande	Director
Zimbabwe Regional Environment Organisation	Talents Sagwidza	Director
Community Technology Development	Regis Mafuratidze	Senior Legal Officer
Zimbabwe Commercial Farmers' Union	Jeremiah Tevera	Director

Agriculture Technical and Extension Services	Joseph Gondo	Principal Director
Ministry of Lands and Rural Resettlement	Joseph Munyanyi	Chief Lands Officer
Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate	Tafazwa Mundoga	Acting Director
Department of Metrological Services	Tich Zinyemba	Chief Metrology Officer
Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency	Manasa Viri	Chief Statistician
Ministry of Energy and Power Development	J . Mukambaniza	
United Nations Development Programme	Anne Manzara	Assistant Resident Representative
Food Agriculture Organisation	Maxwell Phiri	Programme Officer
Ministry of Local Government	Raphael Chirau	Assistant Director
Business Council of Zimbabwe	Dingani Sithole	Manager
Zimbabwe National Water Authority	N. Chivende	Manager
Wildlife Management Authority	Dr Clifford Tafangenyasha	Chief Ecologist

Annex 2: Dates of the LDN National Working Group Meetings and Workshops

The key milestones in the LDN planning process were as follows:

- Introductory meeting of the LDN programme to members of the National Taskforce on Desertification (26 January 2017). The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the LDN target setting process to members of the national taskforce on desertification and to discuss the possibility of forming an LDN National Working Group to coordinate the implementation of the LDN TSP. Meeting accepted the programme and resolved that the National Taskforce on Desertification be adopted as the National Working Group for the LDN programme.
- LDN inception workshop was held on 3 March 2017. The workshop introduced the LDN TSP to key stake holders which included participants from relevant sector ministries (Environment, Forest, Agriculture, Lands, Mining and Energy) civil society organizations, private sector, parliament and international development partners.
- Baseline validation workshop; 4 May 2017. The objective of the workshop was to review and validate the draft baselines document and the document on land degradation trends and driver of land degradation. Both documents were validated after changes and additions suggested by participants were incorporated.
- Target setting workshop; 18 May 2017. The workshop reviewed data used to set the targets and the three globally adopted indicators namely; land cover, land productivity and soil organic carbon. Participants reviewed data from both global and local sources and noted that Zimbabwe does not have reliable data on soil organic carbon and recommended that data from global sources be used to set targets for soil organic carbon and that data from local sources be used to set targets for land cover and land productivity. Four additional indicators were adopted and these include; soil loss, illegal mining, veldt fires and evasive alien species. The workshop then proceeded to set LDN targets for Zimbabwe using the above seven indicators.
- Field trip to assess LDN Hotspots sites; 16 -22 July 2017. Five LDN hotspots sites were assessed. The sites visited are located in Mhondoro, Shamva, Chivi, Zvishavane and Umzingwane districts. A core team of five members conducted the hotspots assessment, with the help of local teams assembled at each participating districts. Members of the core were drawn from EMA, Forest Commission, Ministry of Mines GIS Section and the LDN TSP country consultant. Local teams were drawn from Ministries of Local Government, Agriculture and Environment, Rural District Council and local communities
- Second Validation workshop; 31 August 2017. The documents validated at the second validation workshop include Legal –Institutional Environment, Key Policy –Technical measures to achieve LDN and LDN included in selected national policies and commitments.

Annex 3: Photos on Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Process



Participants at the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Process Inception Workshop



Group Discussions on Identification of Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects



Group Discussions on Key Technical Measures to Achieve Land Degradation Neutrality





Group Presentations on Identification of LDN Transformative Projects



The Land Degradation Neutrality Hotspots Assessment Team

Annex 4: Presentation of national data using LDN indicators framework

Land-Use Category	Land area (1992)	Land area (2008)	Net change in area (1992- 2008)	Net land productivity change (ha, 2000-2010)					Soil organic carbon (2010)
	Ha	Ha	Ha	Declining	Early stage of declining	Stable but stressed	Stable not stressed	Increasing	ton/ha
Forest land	20790234	16268761	4521473	1 800	12300	2750900	6430600	502100	42.3
Shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas	6865923	7495614	629 691	2 600	1 752 500	12910500	5 260 500	86 200	38.6
Cropland	10738945	14412913	3673968	100	196 600	7 028 400	1 953 900	59 600	38.9
Wetlands and water bodies	298 089	389 881	91 792	0	0	100	1000	0	52.2
Artificial areas/settlements	139 341	189 953	50 612	0	11 100	73 600	32 300	700	41.8
Bare land and other areas	78 707	134 890	56 183	0	100	100	0	0	33.7
Percentage of total land				0%	5%	58%	35%	2%	
National SOC average									39.9
Total	38 911 239	38 702 131	9 023 269						

Annex 5: Land Degradation Neutrality Governmental High Level Note Of Measures To Achieve National Targets

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ZIMBABWE

Minister of Tourism, Hospitality Industry
And Environment
7th Floor John Boyne Building
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22 November 2017

Executive Secretary
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
P.O. Box 260129
53153 Bonn, Germany; Fax +49 (0)228/8552898/99 ; secretariat@unccd.int

Dear Ms Barbut,

SUBMISSION OF ZIMBABWE'S NATIONAL LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY TARGETS

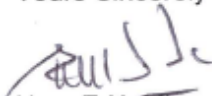
Zimbabwe, through the Ministry of Tourism, Hospitality Industry and Environment expressed its interest to set voluntary national targets and further committed to partner and become a beneficiary of the Global Mechanism land degradation neutrality target setting programme. As a beneficiary of this programme, I would like to thank you most sincerely for the financial and technical support provided to Zimbabwe during the land degradation neutrality target setting process.

As part of fulfilling our commitment and contribution towards the achievement of land degradation neutrality by 2030, I hereby officially submit Zimbabwe's national land degradation neutrality voluntary targets.

As a country affected by land degradation, we will continue to mobilize farmers and all land users towards the achievement of land degradation neutrality targets as outlined in the national document

It is our hope that Global Mechanism and other development partners will continue to provide technical and financial support to Zimbabwe as the country enters the implementation stage of the land degradation neutrality programme.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E.N. Mbwembwe'.

Hon. E.N. Mbwembwe (MP)

MINISTER OF TOURISM, HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT

Annex 6: Submitted Reports for LDN Target Setting Process

Reports submitted as part of the LDN target setting process are as follows:

1. Report on the consultative meeting with members of the National Taskforce on Desertification
2. Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Process Inception Workshop Report
3. Minutes of LDN Baseline Validation Workshop
4. Target Setting Workshop Report
5. Zimbabwe LDN Target Setting Leverage Plan
6. LDN Baselines for Zimbabwe
7. Land Degradation Trends and Drivers for Zimbabwe
8. LDN Targets for Zimbabwe
9. LDN Legal –Institutional Environment for Zimbabwe
10. LND Key Policy –Technical Measures to achieve LDN for Zimbabwe
11. LDN included in Selected National Policies and commitments for Zimbabwe
12. LDN Governmental High Level Note on Measures to achieve National Targets
13. LDN Hotspots Assessment Report
14. Second Validation Workshop Report
15. Identification of LDN Transformative Projects Opportunities
16. Monthly Progress Reports – December 2016 to October 2017